

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-07

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FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5902

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1406

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (EASUM)

SUBJ: GOB CONCERN OVER LAND TRAVEL BETWEEN LIVINGSTONE AND
KAZUNGULA

FOR: ASSISTANT SECRETARY EASUM

REFS: A. LUSAKA 2080; B. GABORONE 1398;
C. LUSAKA 2095; D. STATE 226174

1. BY REF B WE CONCURRED IN TRAVEL BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
FROM LIVINGSTONE BY ROAD TO KAZUNGULA, ACROSS THE ZAMBEZI
BY FERRY AND OVERNIGHT AT CHOBE. WE SEE BY REF D THAT THE
SCHEDULE WILL BE SHORTENED BY VISIT TO QUADRIPOINT IS STILL
UNDER CONSIDERATION.

2. HOWEVER, YESTERDAY IN GENERAL DISCUSSIONS OF ASST SECRET-
ARY EASUM'S VISIT TO BOTSWANA, AMBASSADOR MENTIONED POSSIBLE
SCHEDULING TO PRESIDENT KHAMA AND HIS SENIOR ADVISERS. PRE-
SIDENT KHAMA IMMEDIATELY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SECURITY OF
ASST SECRETARY EASUM DURING LAND TRAVEL FROM LIVINGSTONE TO
KAZUNGULA AND PARTIUCULARLY DURING USE OF FERRY AT QUADRI-
POINT. SENIOR ASSISTANT, STEENKAMP, SAID HE HAD JUST BEEN
UP TO QUADRIPOINT AREA AND WOULD PERSONALLY STRONGLY RECOM-
MEND AGAINST THE PRESENCE OF SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS IN THAT
VICINITY BECAUSE OF RECENT SHOOTINGS THERE (REF C).

3. THE SAME CONCERN WAS EMPHASIZED BY SECRETARY FOR EXTER-
NAL AFFAIRS MOOKODI IN DISCUSSIONS WITH DCM TODAY.

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4. WE DO NOT WANT TO INTERFERE IN PROGRAMMING FROM LUSAKA NOR DO WE PRETEND TO BE EXPERTS ON THE SECURITY SITUATION IN ZAMBIA. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT AVOID PASSING ON THIS STRONG EXPRESSION OF CONCERN WHICH WAS CERTAINLY GIVEN IN A FRIENDLY FASHION.

5. PRESIDENT MENTIONED THAT IF ASST SECRETARY EASUM WISHES TO SEE QUADRIPOINT AND ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE TO FLY HIM FROM LIVINGSTONE TO SERENDELA AIRSTRIP (NEAR CHOBE GAME LODGE), THE BOTSWANA GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PREPARED TO ASSIST HIM IN TRAVELING TO QUADRIPOINT FROM THE BOTSWANA SIDE OF BORDER WHICH THEY CONSIDER MORE SECURE.
BOLEN

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